

he says, 'are in advance of all countries; they have got their constitution of 1812 !' Says James Smith, 'I wish I had got mine.'

Aug. 20.

I suppose you have recognised four bolts of veritable Olympian thunder in *The Times*. It is considered worthy of Jove, and nobody can discover behind what cloud the god is shrouded.¹

The thunderbolts in *The Times* were in the form, of leading articles ; but, as is the way with leading articles, their lightning has ceased to flash and their thunder to reverberate.

When lie comes in the autumn to his now customary review in the diary of the leading events of the year the entries are: —

Establish my character as a great political writer by the *Letters of Runnymede*. Resume my acquaintance with Sir Robert Peel. My influence greatly increases from the perfect confidence of [Lyndhurst] and my success as a political writer. Stayed a week with Bulwer this spring and introduced him to L., against whom he was bitterly prejudiced. They became warm friends. I must not forget the singular fate of my friend old Lady Salisbury — burnt to death at Hatfield.

And then follow lists of names, new acquaintances of recent date, or merely mnemonic hints to recall some incident of the year — Francis Baring and Lord Ashburton, Croker, Baring Wall, Duke of Beaufort, 'an amusing character—Major Fancourt,' Lord Mahon, Lord Lincoln, 'Trelawny — a strange character,' 'Maclise — a painter,' Lord Ashley [afterwards the philanthropic Earl of Shaftesbury], Mackworth Praed, Barnes, and Sterling— but whether -Edward Sterling of *The Times* or John, his son, the subject of Carlyle's biography, we are left to conjecture.

'It is a very remarkable thing,' said Disraeli to Sir Philip Rose, on some occasion when the *Star Chamber* myth had been revived,

¹ *Letters*, pp. 105, 107.

